



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**BRADLEY J. SCHLOZMAN**

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**MAY 18, 2006**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MEXICAN NATIONAL PLEADS GUILTY TO SMUGGLING \$500,000**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Bradley J. Schlozman, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Mexican national has pleaded guilty to bulk cash smuggling, the first time this violation of the U.S.A. Patriot Act has been prosecuted in this district.

**Gilberto Bolanos-Cazarez**, 32, of Tijuana, Mexico, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr on Tuesday to the charge contained in a March 9, 2006, federal indictment.

“A lot of attention has been focused on highway interdictions of illegal drugs being smuggled into the United States, but it is also important to intercept the flow of cash returning to the source,” Schlozman said. “This is a critical strategy in our effort to reduce the flow of illegal drugs into our country.”

**Bolanos-Cazarez** admitted that he concealed \$500,280 in a 1993 Jeep Cherokee and attempted to transport the money from Chicago, Ill., to Mexico, with the intent to evade federal reporting requirements. Under federal law, Schlozman explained, anyone who transports more than \$10,000 across the border of the United States must file a report with the government. The U.S.A. Patriot Act prohibits concealing money with the intent of evading that reporting requirement.

**Bolanos-Cazarez** entered the United States from Mexico on Jan. 13, 2006, and traveled to Chicago to purchase a certain vehicle at the request of a third party in Mexico. **Bolanos-Cazarez** had agreed to purchase the vehicle and transport it to Mexico and deliver it to the third party.

On Jan. 21, 2006, **Bolanos-Cazarez** was stopped for a traffic violation by a Missouri

State Highway Patrol officer on Interstate 44 in Greene County, Mo. The state trooper found some of the concealed money during his search of the vehicle.

Under federal statutes, **Bolanos-Cazarez** could be subject to a sentence of up to five years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David P. Rush. It was investigated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html)